



# NEWS

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## **SNAKE RIVER RICHARD P NELSON FLOODWAY**

**WARREN, MN, April 5, 2006** — The late Mayor Richard Nelson worked tirelessly at the National level to advocate for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Water Resources Programs. His efforts resulted in the approval and funding of the Snake River Watershed Flood Protection Project designed to protect Warren from flood damages. The flood diversion channel, which routes floodwaters of the Snake River around the town, has been named the Richard P. Nelson Floodway in his honor.

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, [Public Law 83-566](#), was passed in 1954. The primary purpose of the act was to reduce damages to our water and related land resources that resulted from flooding, erosion, and sedimentation. Since its passage, and as National priorities continued to change, the program was amended to include a wide variety of purpose and objectives. Today residents of Warren are beneficiaries of this law.

Mayor Bob Kliner said that the financial and mental trauma of another flood may have forced many people to move out of town and that the mental aspect of not knowing what to do or where to go after an event like 1997 may have been too much for many people to bear another time. Many members of the community have also said that if waters were any higher than they are right now, the town would have been in real trouble.

Mayor Kliner said that Dick Nelson was always pressing to get this project passed and completed and always had a backup plan in every situation. If a *roadblock* would come up he would either get the issue resolved or have an alternative plan.

For more information about the Snake River Project contact Deborah Rynda, District Conservationist, at (218) 745-4351.

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